



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

***Raised Bill No. 68***

LCO No. 625



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPIST ASSOCIATES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-195b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

3 (a) Except as provided in section 20-195f, no person shall practice  
4 marital and family therapy unless he or she is licensed in accordance  
5 with the provisions of section 20-195c, as amended by this act.

6 (b) No person shall use the title "licensed marital and family  
7 therapist" or "licensed marital and family therapist associate" unless he  
8 or she is licensed in accordance with the provisions of section 20-195c,  
9 as amended by this act.

10 Sec. 2. Section 20-195c of the 2016 supplement to the general statutes  
11 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
12 *October 1, 2016*):

13 (a) Each applicant for licensure as a marital and family therapist

14 shall present to the department satisfactory evidence that such  
15 applicant has: (1) Completed a graduate degree program specializing  
16 in marital and family therapy [from] offered by a regionally accredited  
17 college or university or an accredited postgraduate clinical training  
18 program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage  
19 and Family Therapy Education offered by a regionally accredited  
20 institution of higher education; (2) completed a supervised practicum  
21 or internship with emphasis in marital and family therapy supervised  
22 by the program granting the requisite degree or by an accredited  
23 postgraduate clinical training program, accredited by the Commission  
24 on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education, offered  
25 by a regionally accredited institution of higher education in which the  
26 student received a minimum of five hundred direct clinical hours that  
27 included one hundred hours of clinical supervision; (3) completed a  
28 minimum of twelve months of relevant postgraduate experience,  
29 including at least (A) one thousand hours of direct client contact  
30 offering marital and family therapy services subsequent to being  
31 awarded a master's degree or doctorate or subsequent to the training  
32 year specified in subdivision (2) of this subsection, and (B) one  
33 hundred hours of postgraduate clinical supervision provided by a  
34 licensed marital and family therapist; and (4) passed an examination  
35 prescribed by the department. The fee shall be three hundred fifteen  
36 dollars for each initial application.

37 (b) Each applicant for licensure as a marital and family therapist  
38 associate shall present to the department (1) satisfactory evidence that  
39 such applicant has (A) completed a graduate degree program  
40 specializing in marital and family therapy offered by a regionally  
41 accredited college or university, or an accredited postgraduate clinical  
42 training program, accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for  
43 Marriage and Family Therapy Education, offered by a regionally  
44 accredited institution of higher education, and (B) passed an  
45 examination prescribed by the department; and (2) verification from a  
46 supervising licensed marital and family therapist that the applicant is

47 working toward completing the postgraduate experience required for  
48 licensure as a marital and family therapist under subdivision (3) of  
49 subsection (a) of this section. The fee shall be one hundred twenty-five  
50 dollars for each initial application.

51       [(b)] (c) The department may grant licensure without examination,  
52 subject to payment of fees with respect to the initial application, to any  
53 applicant who is currently licensed or certified as a marital or marriage  
54 and family therapist or a marital and family therapist associate in  
55 another state, territory or commonwealth of the United States,  
56 provided such state, territory or commonwealth maintains licensure or  
57 certification standards which, in the opinion of the department, are  
58 equivalent to or higher than the standards of this state. No license shall  
59 be issued under this section to any applicant against whom  
60 professional disciplinary action is pending or who is the subject of an  
61 unresolved complaint.

62       [(c) Licenses issued] (d) (1) A license issued to a marital and family  
63 therapist under this section may be renewed annually in accordance  
64 with the provisions of section 19a-88, as amended by this act. The fee  
65 for such renewal shall be three hundred twenty dollars.

66       (2) Each licensed marital and family therapist applying for license  
67 renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of  
68 having participated in continuing education programs. The  
69 commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54,  
70 to [(1)] (A) define basic requirements for continuing education  
71 programs, which shall include not less than one contact hour of  
72 training or education each registration period on the topic of cultural  
73 competency and, on and after January 1, 2016, not less than two  
74 contact hours of training or education during the first renewal period  
75 in which continuing education is required and not less than once every  
76 six years thereafter on the topic of mental health conditions common to  
77 veterans and family members of veterans, including [(A)] (i)  
78 determining whether a patient is a veteran or family member of a

79 veteran, [(B)] (ii) screening for conditions such as post-traumatic stress  
80 disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and [(C)] (iii) suicide  
81 prevention training, [(2)] (B) delineate qualifying programs, [(3)] (C)  
82 establish a system of control and reporting, and [(4)] (D) provide for  
83 waiver of the continuing education requirement for good cause.

84 (3) A license issued to a marital and family therapist associate shall  
85 expire on or before thirty-six months after the date on which such  
86 license was issued and may be renewed once for an additional thirty-  
87 six months in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88, as  
88 amended by this act. The fee for such renewal shall be two hundred  
89 twenty dollars.

90 (4) Each licensed marital and family therapist associate applying for  
91 license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the commissioner  
92 of working toward completing the postgraduate experience required  
93 for licensure as a marital and family therapist under subdivision (3) of  
94 subsection (a) of this section and the potential for successful  
95 completion of such experience prior to the expiration of the thirty-six-  
96 month renewal period.

97 [(d)] (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, an applicant  
98 who is currently licensed or certified as a marital or marriage and  
99 family therapist in another state, territory or commonwealth of the  
100 United States that does not maintain standards for licensure or  
101 certification that are equivalent to or higher than the standards in this  
102 state may substitute three years of licensed or certified work  
103 experience in the practice of marital and family therapy, as defined in  
104 section 20-195a, in lieu of the requirements of subdivisions (2) and (3)  
105 of subsection (a) of this section.

106 Sec. 3. Subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of section 19a-88 of the 2016  
107 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
108 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

109 (e) (1) Each person holding a license or certificate issued under

110 section 19a-514, 20-65k, 20-74s, 20-195cc or 20-206ll and chapters 370 to  
111 373, inclusive, 375, 378 to 381a, inclusive, 383 to 383c, inclusive, 384,  
112 384a, 384b, 384d, 385, 393a, 395, 399 or 400a and section 20-206n or 20-  
113 206o shall, annually, or, in the case of a person holding a license as a  
114 marital and family therapist associate under section 20-195c, as  
115 amended by this act, on or before thirty-six months after the date of  
116 initial licensure, during the month of such person's birth, apply for  
117 renewal of such license or certificate to the Department of Public  
118 Health, giving such person's name in full, such person's residence and  
119 business address and such other information as the department  
120 requests.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2016	20-195b
Sec. 2	October 1, 2016	20-195c
Sec. 3	October 1, 2016	19a-88(e)(1)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To allow for the licensure of marital and family therapist associates.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*